C o n f i d e n t i a l

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Executive Committee No.37
July 1957

M I N U T E S
of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Seabury House, Greenwich, Connecticut, U.S.A.

July 28 - 30, 1957

C O N T E N T S

	page
Attendance	1
Minutes	2
Statement by the General Secretary	2
Patriarchate of Constantinople	2,6,13
Greece	3,13
Hungary	4,20
China	5,6,21
East Germany	5,9
South Africa	5,6
Relations with Roman Catholics	5
Agenda for Central Committee	7
Sub-Committees	7
Third Assembly	7
C.C.I.A.	11
Atomic Tests and Disarmament	11
Future Meetings	12 - 14
Plan of Integration	15
Representation at Ghana	16
Report of the Committee on the Basis	16
Applications for Membership	17
Moscow Patriarchate	18
Report of Finance Sub-Committee	19
Applications from National Councils of Churches for Association with the WCC	19
Report on Radio and Television	20
Division of Studies' study on "Growth and Control of Population"	20
Relationships of NCCC/USA and the WCC	21
Latin America (Publication in Spanish on nature and work of the WCC)	21
Statement on the World Council of Churches	21
Report of Staffing Committee	21
Closing	23

Confidential

Executive Committee No.37
July 1957

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Seabury House, Greenwich,
Connecticut, U.S.A.

July 28-30,1957

Evening Session - July 28th

1. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry took the chair and conducted the opening devotions. The Chairman welcomed the Committee to the U.S.A.

2. Roll Call

There were present:

Honorary President:	The Bishop of Chichester
Presidents:	Professor John Baillie Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri Bishop Otto Dibelius Metropolitan Juhanon Mar Thoma Archbishop Michael Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill
Chairmen:	Dr. Franklin Clark Fry Dr. Ernest A. Payne
Members:	Dr. Eugene C. Blake Dr. Kathleen Bliss The Rev. Peter Dagadu Professor Georges Florovsky Dr. Martin Niemöller Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam Dean Liston Pope
Member of Central Committee invited to attend:	Metropolitan James of Melita
Consultants:	Sir Kenneth Grubb (Chairman of CCIA) President H.P. Van Dusen Dr. Roswell Barnes

Staff: Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary

Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer) Associated
Dr. L.E. Cooke) General
The Rev. Francis H.House) Secretaries
Dr. O.F. Nolde)

Dr. Charles Ranson, General Secretary, IMC

The Rev. Paul Abrecht
Dr. Madeleine Barot
Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert
Dr. Edgar Chandler
The Rev. John Garrett
Dr. Norman Goodall
Dr. H.H. Harms
Dr. J. Robert Nelson
Mr. Frank Northam
Mr. John Taylor
Mr. Kyaw Than
Miss Betty Thompson
The Rev. H.R. Weber

It was noted that all the Presidents were in attendance for the first time since Evanston. Five members of the Committee were absent:

Archbishop Y. Brilioth
Bishop L. de Mel
Professor J. Hromadka
Bishop James of Philadelphia
Mr. Rajaiah D. Paul

Metropolitan James of Melita was recognized as representing Bishop James of Philadelphia.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting which had been circulated were approved.

4. Statement by the General Secretary

The General Secretary made a statement dealing with certain critical situations with which the World Council had had to deal since February.

A. The Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Greco-Turkish relationships

In accordance with the resolution of the Executive Committee, a small group consisting of Sir Kenneth Grubb, Dr. O. F. Nolde, and the General Secretary had visited Greece and Turkey.

In the preliminary discussions in Greece the delegation had been greatly helped by the late Archbishop Dorotheos and by

His Majesty the King of the Hellenes who had shown great knowledge of the position of the Orthodox Church and a keen insight into the situation.

In Turkey the task of the delegation had been very difficult. The Ecumenical Patriarch had received the group most cordially but it had proved difficult to make the right kind of contacts with the Turkish authorities.

The delegation waited upon the Vali - the Governor of Istanbul - who once more showed that he has a helpful attitude toward the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He showed himself ready to listen to the World Council's judgments on the situation and took a somewhat optimistic view of the position.

The delegation had not found it possible to meet with the Prime Minister but they had met with the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, whose many questions indicated his anxiety to discover what weight and authority lay behind the World Council's representations. The General Secretary said that the whole visit was in some ways disappointing but not entirely useless.

Some slight improvement had been noted in the situation in recent months but the position of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople remained precarious.

The visit of the delegation was being follwed up:

(i) By a public resolution of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

(ii) By diplomatic representations to the Turkish government along the lines of the Executive Committee's Resolution of February, 1957, although the Resolution itself had not been published.

Although there had been some easing of the tension and the Turkish government had expressed regret about the riots of September 6, 1955, and affirmed that they do not want the Ecumenical Patriarchate to leave Constantinople, they had none the less made it clear that they could offer no guarantee of its remaining. Developments in Cyprus might make it impossible for them to contain the situation.

B. Greece

The General Secretary reported that news had recently been received of the death of the Archbishop of Athens. Archbishop Dorotheos had held this position for little more than a year. He had shown great interest in the World Council of Churches and had initiated a realignment of relationships between the WCC and the Church of Greece. A new committee of the Holy Synod had been established. Professor Alivisatos had resigned and this act terminated a long and valuable association which went back to 1920. A book of letters had been presented to the Professor on the occasion of his seventieth birthday and these messages from his many friends had been a great consolation to

him in what was inevitably a sad experience. In all the discussions concerning the changes, the WCC had maintained the view that the Church of Greece had to decide upon the way it wanted to order its relationships with the WCC. These changes had caused certain difficulties for the WCC especially in regard to the Inter-Church Aid organisation.

The lamented passing of the Archbishop meant that even the new arrangements which were beginning to be put into effect have been made uncertain, and this applies to the plan to hold the next Central Committee in Greece.

C. Hungary

The General Secretary reported on the carrying out of the instruction of the Executive Committee through his visit with Dr. Eugene Blake to Prague to meet with President Horvath of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in the Hungarian government.

The World Council's deep concern about church leaders who had come to office during the revolution but who had now been removed was made perfectly clear.

The point had also been pressed that the Churches should be free to elect their own leadership.

The General Secretary went on to speak of:

(a) The attacks made against the World Council and against himself personally both in the Hungarian press and the religious press in China. The charges were fantastic but it was not easy to deal with the position. Silence would be misinterpreted as inability to reply, whereas to attempt to deal specifically with the charges could itself be regarded as the taking of them too seriously.

(b) He reported on the presence of Hungarian representatives at the Central Committee.

Pastor Muraközy and Professor Pakozdy had already arrived to represent the Reformed Church.

The visa had not yet been granted for the former Lutheran Bishop Vetö.

The difficulty of obtaining the visas had been pointed out to President Horvath during his visit to Geneva at the end of June, when he had pressed for the attendance of Hungarian representatives.

(c) The prospects for the immediate future of the Hungarian churches was such as to cause anxiety. It would seem that in September or October the Reformed Church would have to elect new Bishops but it appeared unlikely because of the involvement of the state that they would be able to secure the men they want.

(d) The difference between the position of the Lutheran Church and the Reformed Church turned on the question of legality. Bishop Ordass had been legally reinstated - but this had not been the case with those who assumed leadership of the Reformed Church during the Revolution.

D. China

Dr. Visser 't Hooft said that no response had been made from China to the action taken by the Central Committee at Galyatetö. It seemed that some contacts were being considered between the Chinese Church and the churches in the USA.

Dr. Freytag had recently spent some time in China and had brought back an understanding and penetrating report.

E. East Germany

The churches in East Germany were now being subject to violent attacks and these were being focussed on the person of Bishop Dibelius. The Executive should in some way express its disgust with the kind of attack to which a President of the World Council of Churches was being subjected.

F. South Africa

Considerable correspondence had passed between the World Council and the South African churches. Mr. Maurice Webb had made a comprehensive statement to the Executive Committee of the C.C.I.A. and members of the IMC staff and the Joint Committee. The important issue concerned the new law proposed by Minister Verwoerd of the South African government concerning the church attendance of Bantus. This proposal had gone deeply into the life of the churches, not only of the English-speaking churches but the Afrikaans-speaking churches as well. This had led to strong affirmations on the part of the churches.

Dr. Ben Marais had written a letter to the General Secretary which was hopeful in tone on two points:

1. The churches had given such a good account of themselves that the minister had been compelled to change the law and what remains in the law will be most difficult to apply.
2. The churches now see that they must take a stand on the question of freedom. The Afrikaans churches while still defending their interpretation of apartheid now affirm that Christians of different races must come together for worship on occasions.

Two gains are to be acknowledged:

(a) The churches no longer base racial separatism on the Bible.

(b) The churches realise that unity must on occasion be expressed.

The General Secretary said t . policy of the WCC must be to keep up the pressure of our interest and concern rather than to offer criticism from outside.

G. Relations with the Roman Catholic Church

The General Secretary reported that Dr. Harms had paid a most valuable second visit to Rome. There was no question of

agreement or negotiation but simply a sharing of information. The "Conférence des Etudes oecuméniques" will meet again this summer and will have as a subject "The Lordship of Christ".

It was also clear that Dr. Carrillo would be available to give more time in helping the WCC again in these relationships. He will be visiting the U.S.A.

In the discussion which followed, the following points were made:

1. Concerning Istanbul, the Bishop of Chichester reported he had made certain diplomatic representations.

2. It was reported that one Methodist pastor, Professor Matthews and Chief Luthuli had been arrested.

3. The South African churches had made independent pronouncements.

4. Dr. Blake said that a committee of the NCCC/USA was examining the possibility of contacts with the Chinese churches.

   Dr. Payne reported that the possibility of the visit of a delegation from the British Free Churches to China was under consideration.

   The WCC was not contemplating sending any one to China but it had the benefit of consultation with friends who had paid visits to China, Dr. Freytag, Bishop Manikam, and the delegation from the Y.M.C.A.

   The Japanese churches were also developing contacts with China both officially and unofficially.

It was decided

to make a formal statement in the report of the Executive Committee to the Central Committee in refutation of charges against the World Council, its Secretary, and its President, Bishop Dibelius.

It was decided

to request the Central Committee to send a message of sympathy to the Holy Synod on the occasion of the death of the Archbishop of Athens.

The General Secretary presented the time-table of the Executive Committee. This was approved.

Second Session - July 29th - 9:00 a.m.

The opening devotions were conducted by Dr.Eugene Blake.

Archbishop Michael made a statement concerning the position of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He pointed out that although the situation had eased for a while, it now seemedto be worsening again. The declaration was connected with the Cyprus issue which was to be brought before the United Nations again. He wanted to

make it clear that the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek minority had nothing to do with the Cyprus issue. This was a matter for the Cypriots and their church leaders. He hoped the World Council would take steps to see that this was once again made clear to the Turkish government so that the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek minority might be saved from any recurrence of the sufferings of September 1955.

Agenda for Central Committee

The General Secretary outlined the time-table and agenda of the Central Committee. He gave attention to priorities:

(1) The theme, and organisation of the Third Assembly

(2) The need to give unhurried attention to the plan of integration of the IMC and WCC.

(3) The developments in East Asia which constitute the first real regional development.

(4) The Basis of the WCC because, besides its own intrinsic importance, the question has relation to many other issues.

(5) Public affairs. This would concern matters raised by C.C.I.A. among others which were likely to be raised in the Central Committee.

Sub-Committees

The Executive Committee approved the setting up of five sub-committees:

(a) Finance - a standing committee with Dr.Blake as Chairman.

(b) Reference Committee I - to deal with: Main Theme
Integration
Applications for Membership
Nominations
Chairman - Bishop Martin

(c) Reference Committee II - to deal with public issues
Chairman - Dr. John Baillie

(d) Committee on the Basis - a standing committee
Chairman - Dr. Ernest Payne

(e) Assembly Committee - Chairman, Bishop Lilje
Vice-Chairman, Principal Russell Chandran

Third Assembly

Dr. Bilheimer presented a paper concerning his enquiries about the location and organization of the Third Assembly. He said that while he had not been able to meet with the political authorities he had had long conversations with church leaders and with the Executive Committee of the National Christian Council in Ceylon.

He was certain that they were fully aware of what was involved in arranging for our Assembly.

The invitation had now been issued by the churches and by the University of Ceylon. Dr. Bilheimer reported that the University of Peradeniya offered good facilities for accommodation, and the campus is beautifully situated.

He drew attention to two difficulties:

1. The chapel would not be large enough to accommodate the Assembly for worship.

2. It would be necessary for the WCC to set up its own organisation for administration because the Christian Council was not strong enough to undertake this and it would not be possible in a non-Christian country to look for the cooperation and help enjoyed in arranging other Assemblies.

In the ensuing discussion the following matters were dealt with:

1. There would be no political difficulties if political stability were established in the country, although there might be opposition from the Buddhist community.

2. It might be possible to find an alternative site in Asia if the Ceylon plan could not be carried through.

3. Arrangements should be made perhaps by the erection of a Pandal, for the Assembly to have corporate worship and at least one service might be held in the Anglican Cathedral at Kandy.

4. Costs.

   (i) A simplified assembly in Ceylon might well cost as much to the WCC budget as other assemblies.

   (ii) The Ceylon churches would help and certain individual gifts would be received, but the total amount could not be very large.

   (iii) In view of the locale of the assembly certain mission boards might be ready to help - but unless a large enough assembly budget for the years 1959 and 1960 were provided the general budget of the World Council would be in an impossible position.

   (iv) A simplified assembly administration might make for savings on staff costs but there would not be the same sources of income available from tickets for public meetings as previously.

   (v) Staff costs and preparatory costs for Evanston amounted to $112,000.

5. Care must be taken to see that an assembly reduced in size has competence and adequacy to fulfil its policy and legislative responsibilities.

It was resolved:

"In regard to the Third Assembly, the Executive Committee recommends to the Central Committee that:

(i) The number of delegates be approximately 400.

(ii) Every effort be made to provide for a greater simplicity in the structure and organisation of the Assembly.

(iii) The invitation of the churches, the National Christian Council, and the University of Ceylon to hold the Third Assembly in Ceylon be accepted, provided that further discussion with the authorities in Ceylon and with member churches raises no serious obstacles and provided that the Executive Committee at its meeting in February, 1958, is able to approve a budget for the Assembly on the basis of the decisions on the Assembly programme taken by the Central Committee in 1957."

6. Theme of the Assembly

It was agreed that the theme of the Assembly be dealt with in the Central Committee by:

(1) Presentation by the General Secretary concerning the content of the Theme.

(2) Two papers, one from the Study Division and one from the Division of Ecumenical Action analyzing the work of the two divisions.

(3) By Dr. Bilheimer's outline of the task of the Central Committee in preparing the Assembly.

(4) By submission of matters to a sub-committee on the Assembly for report to the Central Committee.

7. Date of the Assembly

No final date had been given by Bishop De Mel but the dates would be between December 15, 1960 and January 1-2, 1961, to fit in with the University vacation period.

8. <u>East Germany</u>

Bishop Dibelius made a statement on the situation in East Germany. He said that the situation is not difficult to understand. The revolutions in Hungary and Poland had made the Russians feel that their Western frontier is insecure. For the Russians it is of the greatest importance to have certain fixed points, one is Czechoslovaki and the other is East Germany. It is not easy to make East Germany a fixed point because the people are against communism. They must therefore seek men who will follow this policy. They had such a man in Ulbricht who is now almost a dictator. President Grotewohl has little power. Ulbricht is an old Stalinist who had adapted himself to changing party lines and the Russians have great confidence in him. He is decidedly antagonistic to

Christianity and follows a policy against the Church. He has to be very careful so that no revolutionary movement is started. He must not irritate Labour, hence there has been no widespread arrest of pastors. Recently a student pastor was arrested in Leipzig and some pastors in Mecklenburg had been arrested and from the communist viewpoint not without reason.

An attempt is being made to break the relations of the Church in the East with the West, but all visas are not being refused because the Russians want to keep some cultural relations with the West. The number of visas is however being reduced. There are some points which Bishop Dibelius wanted to discuss:

(1) Foreign Missions: The government of East Germany regards all foreign missions as propaganda. Ihmels and Brennecke were thus refused permission to attend the meetings of the Lutheran World Federation at Minneapolis.

(2) N.A.T.O. is the great enemy. The East German government can only look at this matter from a political point of view and this includes the Church relationship with the West German government. The Synod of the German Church last spring had as an item on its agenda the question of Church-State relationships with reference to the chaplaincy service in the German armed forces. The Roman Catholic Church had such a service under the old Concordat but the Protestants had none and so had to make a treaty. They also wanted a treaty with the East German government but this was refused on the ground that there was no desire for it in the East German forces. Agreement was only possible with the West German government.

The Synod agreed to the arrangement and the East German members, although they had been threatened, voted for it. The only disagreement came from West Germany.

This result irritated the East German government for they considered this to be giving moral support to N.A.T.O. In the communist conception, issues are simplified. Those who cooperate with N.A.T.O. are for war. Those for war are for atomic bomb war. Therefore the Church is for the atomic bomb.

Relations with the East German government have broken down. Propaganda is focussed on one person. This is against the avowed policy of the post-Stalin era because they do not want a personality cult - but in propaganda against the Church they have returned to the old methods. Hence the attack on himself (Dibelius). The Synod agreement could not be put before the government without signature. Dr. Adenauer and Bishop Dibelius both signed and the ceremony was televised.

Attacks on the Bishop have been made in posters, broadcasting, caricatures, and carried into schools and factories. Dibelius and the Atom Bomb are synonymous in East Germany. He (Dibelius) was not nervous about this; the party line may change tomorrow with a political gesture from Moscow.

(3) Much more important is the changed situation of the Church and State in East Germany. Until now the position had

been different from the other satellites because Russians had accepted a Christian Party. It had been led by Otto Nuschke, a deputy Prime Minister. He belongs to the Church and understands its concerns. He had been entrusted with the task of maintaining Church-State relations. It had not been a very good arrangement but he had acted as a mediator. This arrangement was now at an end and the same methods are being used as in other satellite countries. There is a secretary for church affairs who is a communist. He is not a bad man and seems to desire a basis of understanding. His staff is communist and not very intelligent for no intelligent communist would become involved in this matter. The new secretary tried to get the Bishops of East Germany to meet him for conversation and for social enjoyment. Because neither Dibelius nor Probst Grüber were invited they would not go. No meeting has yet been held. The atmosphere grows less friendly all the time. In slavishly following Russia, the East German government policy is now one of decentralisation. So East Germany is divided into regions. Although there are some moderate communists in some regions and situations vary, it becomes increasingly difficult for the Church to maintain its life. Most people with money have migrated. Those who have money and remain are communists. The Church is being forced into the Russian pattern - 1 pastor for 80,000, 1 church for 40,000. This may prove the only way but it is being resisted. West Germany does what it can but recent changes in exchange rate make support impossible. East German pastors and catechists are poorly paid - but until now it was possible to feel responsible for all who had not left the Church. This may not be possible much longer. For the East German pastors this is a kind of martyrdom. Further difficulties arise in the education of the children. The children of pastors are not admitted to high schools, universities or theological colleges. The only hope for higher education is by moving to the West which means separation from the parents. This is a constant worry.

However the East German government has not been able to organise a body of "Progressive" Pastors. They would like to do so and then appoint Bishops from their number. They have not succeeded as yet. The Church realises its strength is in its unity. This is the way of life, yet there is joy in that the East German churches seem determined to stand fast. Bishop Dibelius said he hoped Bishop Ordass would not leave Hungary. The Bishop must remain with his flock and be prepared for what happens. This is so in East Germany and therefore there may be a future for East Germany.

<u>Third Session - July 29th - 4:00 p.m.</u>

9. <u>The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs</u>

Sir Kenneth Grubb presented a statement on "Atomic Tests and Disarmament". He said that C.C.I.A. had had atomic tests under review in the New York and London offices and had set up a medical advisory panel of experts in different parts of the world.

The relation of atomic tests to disarmament had also been the subject of enquiry and conversation with leaders, scientists

and military men and especial attention had been given to the thesis of "Atomic Deterrents".

The Executive of C.C.I.A. at its recent meeting had received a presentation of the whole problem and had produced this paper which had been unanimously approved by the Executive. The purpose of the paper was to guide the staff as it continues to work on this problem and for such other purposes as the C.C.I.A. might determine. C.C.I.A. was glad to place the paper before the Central Committee and incorporate comments which members of that Committee might make. If the Central Committee wanted substantial changes, it was hoped that C.C.I.A. would be left with this document and the Central Committee, on the basis of this paper, would produce a statement of its own.

Dr. Nolde expounded the paper, pointing out that it was a paper of the C.C.I.A. Executive.

" 1. It took cognisance of public anxiety but sought to point out the implications of the problem.

2. It recognised the terrifying responsibility of leaders of governments who have to make decisions but it also recognised that they must not be left where they are. The paper indicates certain risks which must be taken because to take no decision is dangerous. Dr. Nolde then pointed out the structure of the argument of the paper.

In the discussion which followed the method of presenting the document was considered. It was decided that:

(a) The document should be presented with the report of C.C.I.A.

(b) Dr. Bilheimer should make a short progress report on the study "Christians and the Prevention of War in an Atomic Age".

(c) The Central Committee should be given opportunity to make verbal amendments but not radical changes.

(d) The document should go to Reference Committee II who would make a recommendation either to accept the statement or prepare another statement emphasising certain moral issues.

(e) The document should be released to the press under a heading "Not for Publication or Quotation until the Report of Reference Committee II".

The Executive Committee suggested certain verbal changes.

It was resolved that the paper be sent to Reference Committee II.

10. Future Meetings of the Central Committee and Executive Committee

1. Executive Committee Feb. 10-14, 1958 at William Temple College, Rugby, England.

2. Central Committee in 1958: It was reported that discussions with the Church of Greece had led to a

suggestion that the meeting would be held on the Island of Rhodes. This had become difficult because Rhodes belongs ecclesiastically to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Other possible places had therefore been discussed. The death of the Archbishop of Athens added uncertainty to the plans.

Archbishop Michael reported that the Ecumenical Patriarchate thought that it would not be advisable for the Central Committee to meet in Rhodes. The reason for this judgment is because of the Cyprus issue and because the Ecumenical Patriarch does not want to give Turkey any impression that he is trying to bring pressure on it through the World Council of Churches. The Ecumenical Patriarch thinks it is better for the Central Committee to postpone meeting in Greece in 1958 but he hopes to issue an invitation for 1959.

The General Secretary raised the question of where the Central Committee could be held in 1958: Scotland, Norway, Denmark, Germany? Of these the most likely was Denmark or Germany. Bishop Dibelius issued an invitation for the Central Committee to meet in Germany.

It was resolved

that investigation should be carried out by the officers and staff. The original dates would be maintained.

3. The Executive Committee before the Central Committee in 1958 (In the Central Committee meeting the dates were fixed for August 19 - 21).

Other Meetings

Dr. Blake raised the question of dates in 1959 because of the meeting of the Presbyterian World Alliance in Brazil. This meeting had been timed to coincide with the celebration of the centenary of the Presbyterian Church there, and therefore the dates were not flexible.

Bishop Barbieri issued the invitation again for the Executive Committee in 1959 to meet in the Argentine. He reported that he had corresponded with members of the Executive Committee. A majority had said they would be able to attend and many had agreed in principle. Some churches had already indicated their readiness to finance their representatives.

The General Secretary said there were certain questions to be answered:

(1) What would this meeting mean for the budget of the WCC?

(2) Can we get sufficient attendance?

(3) How much time would membe give? It would be necessary to provide for some visitation of the churches as in Australia - and there should be a consultation with church leaders in Latin America. He suggested at least:

4 days - consultation
5 days - Executive Committee
7-10 days - visitation of churches

(4) Is this the right time in view of the attitude of some Latin American churches to the WCC?

Bishop Barbieri replied:

(1) The Executive Committee would be guests of the Seminary in Buenos Aires so there would be no expense of lodging.

(2) The churches would help with travel costs in Latin America.

(3) The visit could be carried through in 15 days.

(4) Some could visit churches on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts on the way to Buenos Aires.

(5) There is need to go now and create interest in the WCC, especially in view of the widespread activity of the critics of the WCC in Latin America. While the influence may not be immediately effective, Latin America is of great potential significance.

Dr. Ranson expressed his opinion that it may well be a good time to go.

Dr. Blake said that the concern for Latin America was deeply shared by the Presbyterian Churches. If the meetings had been planned for Brazil he would have suggested that the Presbyterian World Alliance should meet first, but he was sure there would be no negative attitude on the part of the Alliance to a meeting in the Argentine.

Dr. Bliss asked whether the language difficulty would inhibit communication. Bishop Barbieri said this could be overcome.

A show of hands revealed that 9 members would go, 2 could not go and 4 were uncertain.

It was resolved:

To accept the invitation provisionally and make the final decision in February 1958.

The dates were fixed:

February 6-10, 1959, for the consultation
February 10 (evening) - February 14 (noon) for the Executive Committee meeting

The Central Committee 1959

It was resolved:

That the staff be requested to continue discussions with the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Church of Greece for the holding of the Central Committee in Greece during late August 1959.

Fourth Session - Dr. Payne presiding

1. The Plan of Integration

Dr. H.P. Van Dusen presented the Plan of Integration of the IMC and the WCC as drawn up by the Joint Committee.

He rehearsed the steps taken to reach the present position:

The Joint Committee decision at Herrenalb, July 1956
The Sub-Committee Meeting at Lambeth, April 1957
The IMC Consultation at New Haven, July 1957
The Joint Committee, New Haven, July 1957

He reported that the Joint Committee had been well attended but unfortunately there had been no Orthodox representation.

He said that Metropolitan James, a member of the committee, had written approving the plan. Dr. Van Dusen expounded the plan indicating that while the proposals were brought to the Executive Committee with the strong and convinced judgment of the Joint Committee, there are some among the constituents of the IMC who are hesitant. It was the judgment of the Joint Committee that the time had come when this plan should be carefully studied with the hope that it would be implemented. Dr. Van Dusen outlined the procedures of discussion in both the WCC and the IMC during the next three years so that if the plan gains support it can be presented to the Assembly of the WCC and a special Assembly of the IMC in 1960.

The debate which followed, concentrated attention not only on the plan but on the procedures of dealing with it.

It was agreed that:

(1) The plan should be circulated to member churches and constituents of the IMC immediately after the Central Committee.

(2) Both constituencies would receive the plan at the same time.

(3) A further circulation would take place after the Ghana Assembly of the IMC.

(4) In an accompanying letter with the initial circulation the General Secretary of the WCC would intimate that the plan was for study and answers would not be expected until after Ghana.

(5) The plan would be printed.

(6) The Central Committee at New Haven would lay on the table any amendments it wished to make and these would be considered by the Joint Com ttee at its next meeting.

(7) The document would be released with a careful statement to the Press on August 2nd with a further release after the Central Committee had taken action on August 6th.

(8) The Central Committee would make two decisions:

(a) Whether to send the plan to the churches.
(b) What comment it considered necessary to go with the plan.

(9) While the Central Committee cannot use the word "approval" at this stage, it may well commend the plan as an acceptable apprcach tc the problem.

Metropolitan James said he wished to make it clear that his letter to the Chairman of the Joint Committee was a personal opinion only.

The Executive Committee suggested certain amendments to the time-table of the plan:

If affirmative action is taken by both WCC and IMC, the plan will be embodied in constitutional documents and a draft act of union, for approval by the Administrative Committee of the IMC, and the Central Committee of the WCC, and for submission, with the necessary amendments to the Constitution, to the Third Assembly of the WCC in 1960.

12. Representation at the Ghana Assembly

The General Secretary reported that the IMC had invited the World Council to send a representative from its governing bodies, besides staff members, to the Assembly.

It was resolved:

To ask the chairman of the Central and Executive Committees of the World Council, Dr. Franklin Fry, to represent the World Council in acceptance of this invitation.

13. Report of the Committee on the Basis

Dr. Fry resumed the chair. Dr. Payne presented the report of the Committee. Dr. Payne said that the question of the Basis had had become a serious one for the World Council. In accordance with the decision of the Central Committee at Galyatetô a memorandum had been prepared and circulated to representative theologians in different parts of the world.

The suggested amendment from Norway had been tabled at Galyatetô. Other proposals had been received from:

The Congregational Christian Churches of the U.S.A.
The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
The Disciples of Christ
The Congregational Union of England and Wales
The Baptist Union of Scotland

There had been expressions of opinion from the Orthodox Churches desiring a reference in the Basis to the Trinity.

The majority of the theologians consulted had replied that while they had no objection to references to the Holy Scripture and to the Trinity they believed it unwise to change the Basis at this time. Such a measure would most likely produce a divisive debate, and, more dangerous, it might lead the World Council to change the statement from a Basis to a Confession of Faith.

A plain negative at this time, Dr. Payne said, could give a false impression of the doctrinal position of the churches of the W.C.C. and would put a weapon into the hands of the critics of the World Council.

The issue would be unavoidable in the Third Assembly and preparation must be undertaken therefore. In the subsequent discussion Father Florovsky spoke as a member of the former committee on the Basis. He recalled the position that committee had taken up - namely, that the present Basis implied the doctrine of the Incarnation and the Trinity, that no one suggested that the Basis was a full statement of the faith, but it was adequate as a Basis of fellowship. He regretted the debate had been reopened.

Others in the Committee shared this regret but it was pointed out that the Church of Norway and the Congregational Christian Churches of the USA had both taken formal action on the matter. There were certain advantages in keeping the discussion alive in the churches, but the sub-committee should take note that many in the Executive Committee did not want the issue raised.

The matter was referred to the Sub-Committee on the Basis.

14. Applications for Membership

1. The General Secretary recalled that applications from the Burma Baptist Convention and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa would be recommended to the Central Committee for acceptance, and that an application from the Evangelical Church of Latvia would be remitted for consideration.

2. On the motion of Dr. Baillie it was agreed to recommend acceptance of the application from the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica.

3. On the motion of Bishop Sherrill it was decided to recommend acceptance of the application from the Gereformeerde Church in Indonesia in spite of its small size (2,300 baptised members and 7 churches).

4. The General Secretary reported that the official application for membership had now been received from the Evangelical Lutheran Church and would now come before the Central Committee. He also reported that an application might be expected from the Independent Church of the Philippines after this church has ratified its new prayer book and constitution this September, and that an application from the Synod of the Nile was expected shortly.

5. There was a short discussion of the question of seeking new members.

It was agreed:

(a) That the staff should prepare a list of churches probably eligible for membership which could be circulated privately to members of the Executive and staff.

(b) That the enterprise of secretaries of the IMC and others in discussing the possibility of membership of the WCC with leaders of non-member churches should be welcomed.

6. Dr. Payne noted that there were a number of Baptist churches in Europe which had hitherto been discouraged from applying for membership on account of their small size, who might now apply for membership following the precedent of the proposed admission of the Gereformeerde Church in Indonesia.

Fifth Session - Dr. Fry in the Chair. Devotions were conducted by the Rev. Peter Dagadu.

15. Moscow Patriarchate

The General Secretary recalled the arrangements made to meet delegates of the Moscow Patriarchate in Paris in January last. This meeting was not held and there was good reason to believe that this was due to events in Hungary. The Whitsuntide message of the Presidents was sent to Moscow, after consultation with the officers, and a covering letter which went with the message contained a sentence which indicated that the World Council of Churches still stood ready to engage in conversations on the basis of a prepared agenda which would include discussion of the difficulties, such as the events in Hungary. A letter, which the General Secretary read, had been received in response in June from Metropolitan Nicolai. The letter indicated that the Moscow Patriarchate could not send a delegation before the end of the year.

It had now been learned that the readiness of the Moscow Patriarchate to consider conversations was because the Moscow Patriarchate now believed that the World Council had a greater disposition to understand its position and to be less occupied with political matters. Conversation might take place for a sharing of information and an examination of differences.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft said that after the summer meetings he would write and say that when the Moscow Patriarchate was willing to propose dates the World Council would be ready to consider them and to arrange accordingly.

The discussion which followed raised the following points:

(i) Care must be taken to work out the agenda in detail.

(ii) The World Council should not expect too much from such a meeting because it seemed the Russian Church was under direction to establish "friendly" relations with the West.

(iii) The appointment of a WCC delegation made for its postponed meeting last January still stood.

(iv) It was hoped that if the conversations revealed that the Church of Russia was in fact suffering under communism every effort would be made to show fellowship to it.

(v) It would be wise to await the next initiative from the Moscow Patriarchate.

16. Report of the Finance Sub-Committee to the Executive Committee

Dr. Blake, Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee, presented the following report:

"In the brief time available, the Finance Sub-Committee was able only to deal with certain personnel questions within the competence of the Executive Committee. The main finance business will therefore come direct to the full Finance Committee at New Haven and the Central Committee.

"The three items which were discussed were:

a) Education allowances. The Finance Sub-Committee considered a proposal from the General Secretariat for assistance to certain of the executive staff for the payment of schooling fees and agreed to recommend adoption of the proposal to the Executive Committee.

b) The Finance Sub-Committee considered a proposal regarding assistance to one staff member in the payment of premiums for retirement pension rights and agreed to recommend the adoption of this proposal to the Executive Committee.

c) The Finance Sub-Committee discussed at length a particular problem arising in respect of one member of the field staff of the Service to Refugees and instructed the staff to report in fuller detail on this matter at the meeting of the Executive Committee in February 1958. Final action on this problem was deferred to the next meeting.

"Full details of the three foregoing items are recorded in a confidential minute."

In presenting this report, Dr. Blake gave fuller detail verbally on items a) and b) and the Executive Committee agreed to adopt both of these recommendations. The Executive Committee noted that item c) would be examined again and would be the subject of report at the next meeting.

17. Applications from National Councils for Association with the World Council of Churches

Action was taken in accordance with Rule XI.2 as follows:

1. It was recommended to the Central Committee that the application of the Polish Ecumenical Council should be accepted.

   In the course of the discussion it was indicated that in the letter informing the Polish Ecumenical Council of this decision, the General Secretary would ask questions about the progress that was being made with the new constitution of the Council and related matters.

2. It was recommended that the application of the Ecumenical Council of Finland should be accepted.

In the course of discussion it was noted that though the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland was the only Finnish Church in direct membership of the World Council, the Methodist and Finnish Orthodox Churches were indirectly in membership. It was also noted that there are Baptist Churches in Finland which are not at present members of the Finnish Council.

18. Report on Radio and Television

Dr. Cavert reported on developments since the last meeting of the Executive. The principal proposition was that a man should be found who could be appointed for a single year. He would need to be one who could ascertain in practice whether the World Council of Churches has a distinctive role in the field of Radio and Television and, if so, what it is. The conditions were that this investigation should be financed wholly outside the budget and that the appointment should be made by the World Council according to its usual procedures. There were good possibilities that an American member church would offer to provide the salary for such an investigator and an additional fund of $6,000 - $8,000 was being sought for, for travelling and office expenses.

Dr. Cavert's report was received with the observation that the matter could be fully debated in the Central Committee on the report of the Information Department.

19. Division of Studies

Dr. Bilheimer report that the Division of Studies study on the "Growth and Control of Population" was not yet complete. A paper had been prepared and this would be the basis for a report to the Executive.

Dr. Bliss reported that a study on this theme was being circulated for the Lambeth Conference.

20. Report of Executive to Central Committee

It was moved to leave the drafting of this report to the officers.

21. Suffering Hungarian Pastors

The Bishop of Chichester asked whether the Executive Committee might make representation on this matter.

The Executive Committee resolved:

to authorise the Bishop of Chichester to take up specific cases in a personal letter to President Horvath.

It was also agreed to leave the guidance of the Central Committee on this matter in the hands of the officers.

22. China

Dr. Payne raised the question of the attack made in a Chinese newspaper on the World Council of Churches and on the General Secretary especially. He suggested that certain chosen leaders should write a letter to the newspaper with copies to the leaders of the Three Self Movement. This would share the World Council's concern.

The Committee resolved:

That no letter should be written to the newspaper but that the Bishop of Chichester's offer to write to Bishops K.H. Ting and Robert Chen concerning the attack on the WCC and Dr. Visser 't Hooft in the Chinese Christian Press be accepted.

23. Relationship of the NCCC/USA and the World Council of Churches

It was resolved:

To approve an exploration by the US Conference of Member Churches with the NCCC/USA as to the best way in which the NCCC/USA can most help in promoting the programme of the World Council of Churches and to avoid overlapping.

24. Latin America

Bishop Barbieri proposed that there should be an official publication on the nature and work of the World Council, in Spanish. Such a publication should be an exposition not an apologia.

It was resolved:

That Bishop Barbieri be authorised to adapt the World Council of Churches' general brochure and translate it into Spanish.

25. Statement on the World Council of Churches

It was resolved:

To ask Dr. Eugene Blake, Dr. Roswell Barnes and Mr. Charles Parlin "to work out a statement on the subject 'What is the World Council of Churches?'"

This statement is to be submitted to the officers for their use in public relations during the Central Committee.

26. Report of the Staffing Committee

Dr. Payne as chairman of the Staffing Committee presented the committee report.

Staffing Committee

I. Reappointments

a) The Executive Committee was reminded of its action in February to recommend that the Central Committee

reappoint the following through 1960:

The Rev. Paul Abrecht
Mlle Madeleine Barot
Dr. Edgar H.S. Chandler
The Rev. John Garrett
Dr. Hans H. Harms
Mr. Frank Northam
Dr. Elfan Rees
The Rev. Philip Potter

In regard to the Rev. Philip Potter, it was recommended that the Executive Committee recommend to the Central Committee that he be named as Executive Secretary of the Youth Department, beginning in February, 1958.

b) It was recommended that the Executive Committee reappoint:

Dr. Ulrich van Beyma as Secretary for Countries outside Europe in the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees through 1960.

The Rev. William Perkins as Secretary for Work Camps in the Youth Department for the year September 1957 through August 1958.

Mr. Alan Haigh as Secretary in the Department of Finance and Administration through 1960.

Mr. Wolfgang Kordon as Secretary in the Department of Finance and Administration through 1960.

II. New Appointments

1. It was recommended that the Executive Committee make the following new appoints:

a) Mr. B.Ch. Sjollema as Secretary in the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees for its work on migration, for a period of two years beginning in November 1957.

b) The Rev. Raymond Dudley as Consultant on the staff of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees for three years, beginning in November 1957.

c) The Rev. Maurice Costil as Associate Secretary of the Youth Department for the period October 1957 - August 1959.

d) Miss Louise Gehan as Associate Secretary of the Youth Department for the period October 1957 - October 1959.

e) Mr. Robert Nicholson as Secretary for World Youth Projects in the Youth Department, for the period January 1958 - January 1961.

f) Mr. L. . van Ouwenaller as Secretary in the Department of Finance and Administration for three years beginning September 1957.

2. It was recommended that the Executive Committee recommend the following actions to the Central Committee:

a) That subject to concurrent action on the part of the IMC upon recommendation of the Prapat Conference and the Joint Committee of the IMC-WCC, the East Asia Secretariat be enlarged and that Dr.D.T. Niles be appointed as Secretary, U Kyaw Than as Associate Secretary, and the Rev.A.A.Brash as Inter-Church Aid Secretary for a period of three years; and that until such time as the Secretary is able to assume his post on a full-time basis, U Kyaw Than be recognised as Administrative Secretary.

b) That the nominations of the Working Committee of Faith and Order and any other names which may be proposed for the post of Secretary of Faith and Order be referred to the Chairman of the Central Committee, the Chairman of the Staffing Committee and the General Secretary with power to act in regard to an appointment for the ensuing three or four years.

c) That the Central Committee join with the U.S. Conference for the WCC in appointing Dr. Roswell P. Barnes on nomination of the Executive Committee as Secretary in New York for three years, beginning January 1958.

d) That the Chairman of the Central Committee, the Chairman of the Staffing Committee, the Chairman of the Board of the Ecumenical Institute and the General Secretary be empowered to appoint a third member of the staff of the Ecumenical Institute.

3. The Staffing Committee noted that a nomination may be made for specialised work in the Department of Information on radio and television and expects to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee in February 1958.

4. The Staffing Committee reported that the conditions for the acceptance of the offer of the services of Mr. A. Andrews in the Department on the Laity for one year have been met, and recommends that the acceptance of this offer be confirmed.

27. Closing

The Chairman expressed warm gratitude to Bishop Sherrill for the generous hospitality offered at Seabury House.